

10/590394  
IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 21 AUG 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : Confirmation No.  
Applicant : Oliver Merker et al.  
Filed :  
PCT No. : PCT/EP2005/001646  
IFD : February 17, 2005  
TC/A.U. :  
Examiner :

Docket No. : 06-494  
Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the initial office action in the above newly filed patent application, please amend said application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.